

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

Released: April 1, 2002, 1:00 p.m.
Published Weekly
CWP Vol 02 No 3



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507

Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending March 31, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Spring Wheat Planted Ahead of Normal
Cold, Snowy Conditions Slowed Fieldwork across State; Increased Moisture Supply**

FIELD CROPS

Very little fieldwork has been completed due to the moisture and cold weather. Freezing and thawing each day may have caused damage to the roots of winter wheat plants. In Franklin County, early potatoes were planted and other fields were prepared for planting. On the western side of the state, daffodils had begun to bloom when one of the largest snowstorms went through.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland has not yet recovered from last year's drought. In Grays Harbor County, producers complained about elk damage to pasture and fences. Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 8% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, and 4% excellent.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Producers used frost control measures on fruit crops, however no crop losses were due to the cold weather conditions. Orchard and vineyard cleanup activities proceeded, but asparagus harvest was delayed because of the cold weather.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
4.7	--

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	5	90	5
Subsoil	0	10	87	3
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	18	9	73	0

VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	25	--	17	19
Spring Wheat Emerged	3	--	4	5
Barley Planted	11	--	12	15
Barley Emerged	1	--	1	3
Potatoes Planted	10	--	8	9
Potatoes Emerged	0	--	1	1
Dry Peas Planted	2	--	2	2
Proc. Green Peas Planted	1	--	1	1

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	0	2	43	48	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	84	16	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Barley Dryland	0	0	95	5	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0

VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor/Lewis: March weather began cold and snowy and ended cooler than normal. Spring fieldwork barely got started. Most activities were about two weeks behind schedule.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained normal for this time of year. The temperature has been below normal, with above normal rain. Snow arrived later than normal. The late snow could have some effect on the winter crops.

There were no reports of crop damage.

Snohomish/North King: March roared like a lion most of the month. There were several days of temperatures below normal and above average snowfall. Daffodils were starting to bloom already during one of the significant snow storms. A few fields were dry enough for tilling and preparation for early spring crop planting. There were no reports of crop or field damage.

CENTRAL

Benton: Orchard and vineyard cleanup was underway. Apricots were in full bloom with several days of frost protection necessary. Asparagus harvest was delayed due to the cold weather.

Franklin: After weeks of cool, windy conditions, temperatures were warmer and field operations picked up significantly. Early potatoes were planted and other fields were being plowed and fertilized for planting.

Grant: Planting of wheat, barley, and peas were nearly complete. Potato planting began. Weed control in alfalfa was complete. Field

preparation was in progress for potatoes and corn. Irrigation will begin soon.

Yakima: Average temperatures were cooler than normal, ranging from 7 degrees above normal to 12 degrees below normal, with a low temperature of 15 degrees on March 8. The precipitation of .21 inches received for the month was .41 inch less than normal. Producers have been using frost control measures on fruit crops, however no crop losses were due to the cold weather conditions.

EASTERN

Adams: Winter wheat improved after precipitation early last week and warmer daytime temperatures. Spring cereal seeding is about 30 percent complete and will nearly be complete by week's end. Spring cereal conditions currently look very fair.

Asotin/Garfield: Recent rain and snow improved moisture conditions. Some of the lower elevations were still drier than normal. March was one of the coldest on record. Freezing and thawing each day may be causing

damage to the roots of winter wheat plants, making them susceptible to disease problems. Very little fieldwork has been completed due to the moisture and cold weather. As a result, spring planting will be later than normal in some areas. Rangeland was in poor condition due to last year's drought and the cold weather this spring. Cattle producers will be forced to feed hay longer than normal this spring if they can find any available.

Lincoln: Winter wheat was in mostly fair condition and improved last week with the precipitation and warmer weather. Spring cereal seeding will be starting this week and should continue for the next three weeks, starting in the southwest end of the county and ending in the northwestern end of the county. Spring seeding conditions were fair.

Whitman: Spraying was being done in the later part of the week, and crop dusters were active and applying dry fertilizer on Friday and Saturday. Wind and rain made it difficult to get started on fieldwork, but some grass seeding in the western part of the county began.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

April 1, 2002

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	36	54	45	0	0	-7	0	0	0.28	-0.35	4	27.07	0.36	101	115
Everett	37	54	46	0	0	-7	0	0	0.57	-0.20	4	26.52	-0.09	100	122
Hoquiam	34	53	45	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.38	-1.04	4	55.37	0.04	100	133
Kelso	36	59	47	1	0	-7	0	0	0.06	-0.87	3	35.03	-1.02	97	118
Olympia	32	58	44	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.16	-0.83	5	50.94	9.47	123	126
Seattle-Tacoma	34	55	46	-1	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.70	0	30.64	0.88	103	110
Shelton	35	57	45	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.31	-1.00	5	61.91	7.43	114	125
Tacoma	34	55	45	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.06	-0.73	3	25.17	-6.36	80	94
Vancouver	34	58	47	1	0	-7	0	0	0.01	-0.79	1	31.39	-1.12	97	116
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	31	60	46	3	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.18	-1.45	78	59
Omak	24	68	44	5	2	2	0	0	0.00	-0.25	0	7.65	-1.69	82	55
Stampede Pass	24	40	32	2	0	0	0	0	2.09	0.59	5	64.56	-1.65	98	118
Wenatchee	31	64	49	3	7	0	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	3.99	-1.93	67	46
Yakima AP	28	69	47	2	3	-4	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	4.63	-1.30	78	43
NORTHEAST															
Colville	28	63	45	4	1	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.40	0	11.75	-2.52	82	63
Deer Park	27	56	41	0	0	-6	0	0	0.03	-0.32	1	17.08	4.45	135	90
Spokane AP	27	55	42	1	0	-7	0	0	0.03	-0.26	1	10.15	-1.10	90	81
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	27	68	47	1	3	-4	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	4.19	-1.02	80	44
Moses Lake	30	67	48	2	7	0	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	3.76	-1.45	72	48
Quincy	27	64	48	3	7	0	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.04	-0.62	89	47
Ritzville	29	59	42	-1	0	0	0	0	0.44	0.23	1	8.10	0.04	100	62
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	32	65	51	1	8	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.12	0	4.22	-0.66	86	37
Pasco	31	69	50	1	12	-2	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	3.81	-1.71	69	39
Pullman	31	58	43	2	0	0	0	0	0.12	-0.30	2	13.86	-1.04	93	79
Walla Walla AP	36	68	50	2	6	-5	0	0	0.24	-0.18	1	10.94	-2.91	79	77
Whitman Mission	32	64	48	2	1	-6	0	0	0.40	0.12	1	9.26	-0.25	97	69
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D' A' AP	28	54	42	-1	0	-6	0	0	0.02	-0.45	1	13.53	-4.46	75	88
Lewiston ID	37	60	48	2	2	-6	0	0	0.37	0.09	2	7.13	-0.16	98	65

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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